

Informed Consent

Ununited Anconeal Process (UAP)

Your dog has been diagnosed with a developmental disturbance of one of the bones in his/her elbow. In some dogs, part of the ulna (anconeal process) doesn't fuse to the rest of the bone, and the motion created by that "free" fragment causes pain, inflammation in the joint, lameness, and arthritis. You have elected to have this problem surgically addressed. The goals of surgery are to remove the "free" fragment of bone (although in some cases, a surgeon may elect to reattach the fragment, this isn't as common). The surgery is pretty straightforward and the prognosis is good following surgery. However, we need to make you aware of a few of the common complications that could arise after this surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

The risks of complications after surgical treatment for UAP is low, about 10% of cases. Here are some potential risks:

Arthritis/osteoarthritis (OA)/degenerative joint disease (DJD)- despite our efforts to improve the health of the joint, the joint will always be abnormal. The inflammation in the joint progresses to arthritis, also known as degenerative joint disease or osteoarthritis or arthritis for short. While the prognosis is better with surgery than without, every patient with UAP will likely develop arthritis in the elbow joint. This may require medical therapies in the future.

Infection- this is a risk with any surgery and is usually treatable with oral antibiotic therapy. An infection of the joint, septic arthritis, is rare.

Persistent lameness- this is addressed on a case by case manner